



Pittwater House

2025 HSC Achievements



Congratulations

We are proud to share the 2025 HSC results of our remarkable Class of 2025, together with our accelerated Year 11 students.

It has been a privilege to witness the growth, resilience and achievements of this cohort, whose balanced approach to learning and strong sense of community have been defining features of their journey. We are delighted to report that our students achieved impressive academic outcomes this year, with a median ATAR of 83.1 and a mean ATAR of 82.1, supported by consistently strong performance across a wide range of subjects.

We extend special congratulations to our Dux of Girls' College, Charlotte Smith (ATAR: 99.5), who commenced her Pittwater House journey in Year 7, and our Dux of Boys' Grammar, Errol Sandhu (ATAR: 99.3), who has been part of our community since the Junior School. Their outstanding achievements reflect exceptional effort, perseverance and commitment throughout their years at Pittwater House.

We are also proud to acknowledge students named on the HSC Band 6 All Rounders List: Errol Sandhu, Charlotte Smith and Viktoriya Sushcheva. These students demonstrated consistently high achievement across their subjects, underpinned by strong work ethic, leadership and academic excellence.

In addition, we congratulate our Top Achievers who placed among the highest in the state in specific HSC courses while achieving the highest possible grade: Adele Cosentino (5th in state, PDHPE) – whose Pittwater House journey began in our Early Childhood Centre and included a First in Course in Dance as an HSC accelerant in 2024 – alongside Poppy Playle (9th in state, Food Technology), Errol Sandhu (15th in state, Legal Studies) and Charlotte Smith (5th in state, English Extension 1). Their passion for learning and dedication to their disciplines set a high standard, and we celebrate their success with great pride.

Overall, of the students who elected to receive an ATAR, 31% achieved an ATAR of 90 or above, with 14% exceeding 95 and 11% surpassing 97. Collectively, 58 students achieved 118 Band 6 results (90+) across 28 subjects, representing an excellent achievement. Students excelled in several key subject areas, achieving 100% results in the top two Bands for subjects including English Extension 1, English Extension 2, Mathematics Extension 2 and Music.

Across all 2-unit and Extension subjects, Pittwater House achieved Band 6/E4 results in 66% of subjects, while 81% of courses exceeded the state average for students achieving the top two HSC bands, reflecting strong and consistent achievement across a broad range of disciplines. In Extension subjects, 93% of students achieved results in the top two Bands, with an outstanding eight out of nine students achieving Band 6 in Accelerated Mathematics.

We are also delighted to celebrate our students' success in the practical components of their HSC courses. This year, Pittwater House proudly received five ENCORE nominations in Music, two ARTEXPRESS selections in Visual Arts, one SHAPE nomination in Design and Technology, and one OnSTAGE nomination in Drama, highlighting the exceptional creativity and talent of our students across the arts.

While this cohort demonstrated admirable academic strength, what stood out most was their ability to support one another and approach school life with balance, generosity and a genuine sense of enjoyment. The respect they earned from their teachers and the strong connections they built with one another give us great confidence that they are well prepared for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

We are immensely proud of the Class of 2025 and the young adults they have become. We hope the pages that follow offer insight into their achievements, experiences and the promising post-school pathways that now await them.

James Walmsley
Acting Principal (Term 4, 2025)



“These achievements also reflect the continued strength of our HEROIC learning model, which fosters excellence not only academically, but across all areas of personal growth.”



HSC Highlights

82

NSW school
ranking



31%

Achieved ATAR of 90+
14% exceeded 95
11% exceeded 97

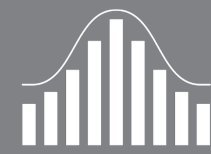


83.1%

Median ATAR

82.1%

Mean ATAR



3 All-Round Achievers

Errol Sandhu
Charlotte Smith
Viktoriya Sushcheva



99.5

Dux of Girls'
College
Charlotte Smith



99.3

Dux of Boys'
Grammar
Errol Sandhu



4 Top Achievers

Adele Cosentino
Poppy Playle
Errol Sandhu
Charlotte Smith



58

Distinguished
Achievers earned 118
Band 6 results (90+)
across 28 subjects



1

OnSTAGE Nomination
Estella Bayfield



5

ENCORE Nominations
Adele Cosentino x 2
Harley Cruickshank
Kai Hare
Grace McMullen



2

ARTEXPRESS
Selections

Ella Freund
Tanisha McDonald



1

SHAPE Nomination
Nick Selleck



3 Students

Offered University of Technology,
Sydney Cooperative Scholarships

Charlotte Smith
Luke Watts
Sophie Banham



3 Students

Offered Dalyell Scholarships from
the University of Sydney

Jack Murphy
Phileine Krabbe
Lukas Overhoff



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It has been a privilege to witness the growth, resilience and achievements of this cohort, whose balanced approach to learning and strong sense of community have been defining features of their journey.

Mr James Walmsley - Acting Principal (Term 4, 2025)

Dux of Girls' College

Charlotte Smith

ATAR 99.5

Offered Bachelor of Accounting Cooperative Scholarship
University of Technology, Sydney

What was your favourite subject and why?

My favourite subject was Visual Arts because it gave me a space to express myself and experiment with new ideas. I loved that it combined both technical skills and creative freedom, which allowed me to expand my ideas and explore how art can represent different perspectives on the world. Working on my Body of Work was my highlight, as it gave me the opportunity to utilise everything I had learnt on a project that was personal and meaningful. The Visual Arts department was always so encouraging and open to my ideas, providing hours of support that made me look forward to and truly enjoy the subject.

What co-curricular or other activities/practices did you do to balance your commitment to your studies?

Balancing academics with co-curricular activities was very important for me during the HSC. I played and coached netball, which provided a physical outlet and helped me develop leadership and communication skills. Being on the court with friends or supporting younger players always gave me a sense of balance and perspective when the pressure of schoolwork felt overwhelming. Coaching was especially rewarding because I was able to share my love of the sport while giving back to the community. Netball taught me resilience, teamwork, and effective time management – skills that directly helped me stay motivated and on track with my studies.



“Charlotte is a model student who has excelled across both components of the Visual Arts course. Her artistic ability, discipline, and academic excellence set her apart as a student of great promise. I wish her the very best as she continues to grow.”
Mrs Dannyelle Tierney
- Teacher of Visual Arts

Dux of Boys' Grammar

Errol Sandhu

ATAR 99.3

What was your favourite subject and why?

My favourite subject was History Extension, taught by the indefatigable Ms. Selvaggi, which rigorously prepared me for university in a way that no other subject did. I learned how to think, analyse, and construct a historically nuanced argument in under ten minutes (under the pressure of the HSC) which proved invaluable in reinforcing my capabilities in argumentation, and assisted in all my other humanities subjects. My classmates were a great team and through working together we had a lot of fun while undertaking this challenging subject, with my teacher providing a great environment for learning and answering our endless questions.

How did your teachers contribute to your success?

I would not have been able to achieve my results without the sustained commitment of my teachers throughout the HSC year. They invested an extraordinary amount of time reviewing drafts, marking practice papers and questions, and answering my many questions – particularly in Economics. They also showed considerable patience in engaging with my often discursive lines of inquiry, which occasionally extended beyond the immediate demands of the syllabus. In the final weeks before the examinations, their detailed feedback, high expectations, and willingness to push me intellectually were especially valuable. Their rigour and generosity of time were central to my academic development and ultimate success.



“Even though it’s cliché, I would tell future HSC students to avoid leaving things to the end and instead aim to work steadily from the start, even when motivation is inconsistent. I struggled with asking questions at the beginning of the year, but it really does make a huge difference, and the teachers genuinely want to help.”

All-Round Achievers

Errol Sandhu
ATAR 99.3

How did your peers contribute to your success?

My peers contributed to my success in ways I didn't fully appreciate at the time. Working alongside them made difficult topics feel more approachable and helped me stay accountable when motivation flagged. Studying together for Modern History, writing essays, and reviewing content as a group was incredibly helpful and encouraged me to put in far more effort than I would have on my own. The sheer dedication of everyone, especially during the Trial period, motivated me to keep up and push myself further. I was also fortunate to be part of a year group that genuinely supported each other throughout the year.



Economics
English Advanced
English Extension 1
Legal Studies
Modern History
History Extension

Charlotte Smith
ATAR 99.5

Offered Bachelor of Accounting Cooperative Scholarship -
University of Technology, Sydney

What were the highlights of your time at Pittwater House?

My involvement in co-curricular activities definitely shaped so much of my school experience. Whether it was participating in College Performing Arts or making a basketball team with my friends, I loved being part of events and activities that brought us together. It was often those shared experiences that became my favourite memories, reminding me of the strong community spirit at Pittwater House and how much I valued the friendships I made along the way.



Business Studies
English Advanced
English Extension 1
Mathematics
Standard 2
Personal
Development,
Health and Physical
Education
Visual Arts

All-Round Achievers

Viktoriya Sushcheva
ATAR 98.95
HEROIC Prefect

What advice would you give students undertaking their HSC in future years?

Throughout Year 12, I found it incredibly beneficial to continue with my co-curricular activities to balance out the stresses of exams, homework, and seemingly endless revision. I made time for gymnastics, cadets, and my part-time job to take my mind off school and recharge. For this, it was important to manage my time well, including planning when my tasks were due so that I could set goals to get everything done and prevent any last-minute cramming. This also helped me to remain focused and consistent in my studies. I would strongly encourage students to find something they enjoy, whether it be an activity, sport, or hobby, that restores a sense of self, away from academic expectations.



Biology
Chemistry
English Advanced
Mathematics
Advanced
French Continuers

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We congratulate our Top Achievers who placed among the highest in the state in specific HSC courses while achieving the highest possible grade. Their passion for learning and dedication to their disciplines set a high standard, and we celebrate their success with great pride.

Mr James Walmsley - Acting Principal (Term 4, 2025)

Top Achievers



Adele Cosentino
5th in state, PDHPE

"My teachers taught me the key to success in the HSC is consistently practicing past papers and questions. By completing these and submitting them for feedback in the lead up to internal assessments and the HSC, I not only had practice answering questions in the style of the upcoming assessment but also received detailed guidance on how to improve my responses to nail them in the exam. I am grateful to all my teachers for their time and care in marking my practice work, as their feedback helped me become the best student I could be for the HSC."



Errol Sandhu
15th in state, Legal Studies

"Errol is a true scholar in all facets of his education. He has a deep interest in international affairs and social justice, and the Legal Studies class has benefitted greatly from the intellectual conversations he has initiated."

Ms Abby Jeffery – Coordinator of HSIE & Teacher of Legal Studies

Top Achievers



Charlotte Smith
5th in state, English Extension 1

"My biggest piece of advice for students starting their HSC is to choose subjects that you genuinely enjoy. It's much easier to stay motivated when you care about what you're learning, as studying a subject that doesn't interest you will never feel quite right. The HSC can feel overwhelming at times, so it's also important to look after yourself and find balance. For me, that meant turning to sport and creative outlets to recharge. I'd also remind students that it's never too late to start studying – progress can be made at any stage if you commit to it. Focus on your own strengths and goals, and success will follow."



Poppy Playle
9th in state, Food Technology

"Poppy continued to work with dedication and focus – consistently seeking feedback on her practice examination questions to develop understanding and gain constructive input. Her exceptional results were very pleasing to see. It has been a pleasure teaching Poppy, and I wish her all the best for her future studies."

Mrs Jody Seaton – Teacher of TAS

Distinguished Achievers

Student Name	Top Band Course
Banham, Sophie	English Advanced, Mathematics Standard 2, History Extension
Barr, Charlie	Mathematics Standard 2
Barrett, Oliver	Business Studies
Bayfield, Estella	Music 1
Beresford-Jones, Inigo	Biology, Legal Studies, Mathematics Standard 2
Boyd, Addison	Mathematics Standard 2
Cloke, Samuel	Mathematics Standard 2
Cook, Henry	Mathematics Advanced
Cosentino, Adele	Music 2, Music Extension, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Cruickshank, Harley	Economics, English Advanced, Physics
Davey, Sarah	Community and Family Studies
Davis, Hugo	Mathematics Standard 2, French Continuers
De Vries, Zane	Mathematics Advanced
Dougal, Zack	Business Studies, Mathematics Advanced
Eksteen, Ruann	Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Ferguson, Heather	Business Studies, Visual Arts
Freund, Ella	English Advanced, Legal Studies, Visual Arts
Gaskell, Benjamin	English Advanced, English Extension 1, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Griffith, Max	Business Studies, Economics, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Hare, Kai	Music 1
Holland, Denam	Mathematics Advanced
Horvath, Maximilian	Mathematics Standard 2
Johnston, Alex	Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Johnston, Toby	Mathematics Standard 2
Jopling, Phoebe	Music Extension, Visual Arts
Kasprowicz, Zara	Business Studies, Mathematics Standard 2, Visual Arts
Krabbe, Phileine	Biology, Economics, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Letts, Marlana	Legal Studies
Liu, Annie	Mathematics Advanced
Lock, Emily	English Advanced, Mathematics Extension 1, French Continuers
Lovell, Ruby	Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Marland, Charlotte	Mathematics Advanced

Distinguished Achievers

Student Name	Top Band Course
McCracken, Harry	Mathematics Standard 2, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
McMullen, Grace	English Advanced, English Extension 1, Music 1, Visual Arts
McPherson, Lillie	Mathematics Advanced
Murphy, Jack	Biology, Economics, Legal Studies, Mathematics Extension 1
Nemtseva, Anastasia	Business Studies, Geography
Nicholson, Lily	Community and Family Studies, English Standard
Overhoff, Lukas	Economics, English Advanced, Mathematics Extension 1, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Pan, Jitong	Japanese Beginners
Pappas, Chryssa	Modern Greek Beginners
Pascall, Henry	History Extension
Pearce, George	Legal Studies
Perez, Lucas	Spanish Beginners
Peupion, Mirabelle	Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Playle, Poppy	Biology, English Advanced, Food Technology, Modern History
Sandhu, Errol	Economics, English Advanced, English Extension 1, Legal Studies, Modern History, History Extension
Santos, Maya	Ancient History, English Extension 1
Scamps-Magro, Frederique	Mathematics Advanced
Selleck, Nicholas	Design and Technology
Simpson, Emma	Mathematics Advanced
Smith, Charlotte	Business Studies, English Advanced, English Extension 1, Mathematics Standard 2, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education, Visual Arts
Sushcheva, Viktoriya	Biology, Chemistry, English Advanced, Mathematics Advanced, French Continuers
Trevaskis, Olivia	Community and Family Studies
Trevena, Thomas	Food Technology, Legal Studies, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Wall, Madeline	Visual Arts
Wang, Yi	Economics, English Advanced, Mathematics Extension 1
Watts, Luke	Economics, Geography

OnSTAGE - HSC Drama



Estella Bayfield
Nominated for Video Drama Individual Project



ENCORE - HSC Music



Adele Cosentino
Nominated for Music 2 – Core
Nominated for Music 2 – Elective Compositions



Harley Cruickshank
Nominated for Music 2 – Bass Guitar



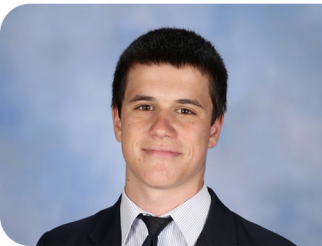
Kai Hare
Nominated for Music 1 – Drumkit



Grace McMullen
Nominated for Music 1 – Voice



SHAPE - HSC Design and Technology, Industrial Technology and Textiles and Design



Nick Selleck
Nominated for Design and Technology



ARTEXPRESS - HSC Visual Arts



Ella Freund
Selected



Tanisha McDonald
Selected



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Tanisha’s ceramic piece ‘Fluorescent Footprints’ transforms ocean waste into artificial reefs, highlighting pollution through vivid neon accents. Inspired by Joan Ross, her work explores nature’s resilience and humanity’s impact beneath the waves. Through this work Tanisha challenges viewers to consider their responsibility for the ocean’s future.

Ms Larissa Wenman - Coordinator of Visual Arts

Student Reflections

Viktoriya Sushcheva
ATAR 98.95, HEROIC Prefect

What is your proudest school moment/achievement?

Prior to coming to Pittwater House, I never saw myself able to get a grade above a B. However, in Year 9, astonishingly, I managed to achieve my first academic award; the Silver Jubilee Prize. Getting this award was something I never saw coming, yet it was incredibly rewarding to see all my efforts in school pay off and be recognised. It was thanks to all the support I had from my teachers and the wonderful learning environment offered by Pittwater House that I was able to push myself to reach my goals. This proved to me that Pittwater House provides their students with the resources and assistance that allow their students to thrive and reach their full potential.



Nick Selleck
ATAR 93.8

How did your peers contribute to your success?

My peers were a crucial part of my success in Year 12 as they provided a strong support network that made the challenges of the HSC much easier to manage. Having close and trustworthy friends around me meant I always had people to talk to, whether it was about schoolwork, exams, or personal stresses. These connections created a sense of encouragement and reassurance, easing the pressures of what was otherwise a challenging year of schooling. My close group of friends also helped me maintain a balanced mindset, reminding me to stay positive and not become overwhelmed by the workload. Beyond academics, these friendships developed into meaningful connections that will last for years to come.



Nakita Wang
ATAR 98.5, SRC Prefect

Pittwater House is structured to provide students with largely single-gender classes within a co-ed school campus, gradually moving to a full co-education in Years 11 and 12. What do you think are the benefits of this structure?

Having come from a co-educational primary school, I find that learning alongside both boys and girls brings about a valuable range of different perspectives into the classroom, as the diversity of thought and discussion can most definitely enrich the learning experience. However, noting only from my personal experience, I have also found that especially in the younger years, boys and girls tend to have more disparate approaches to learning which often becomes more indistinguishable in the older years as students mature and become more focused on their studies. As such, I think the framework offered by Pittwater House allows for a more personalised approach to learning which has benefitted me, both socially and academically.



Student Reflections

Jack Murphy
ATAR 98.2, Butterworth House Captain

What were the highlights of your time at Pittwater House?

I joined Pittwater House in 2019 – halfway through Year 6 – and have loved my six-year journey at the school. Some of the standout highlights include the school camps, where I shared unforgettable experiences with friends, particularly the Year 10 snow camp in Perisher. Another highlight has been building strong connections with my cohort; from my first day in Year 7, I grew closer to my peers each year and now leave with lifelong friendships. Beyond academics, Pittwater House also shaped my personal growth, teaching me invaluable skills such as teamwork and communication. These were lessons I didn't consciously notice at the time, but they have been some of the most meaningful highlights of my schooling.



Ella Freund
ATAR 94.7, Charity Prefect

How did your teachers contribute to your success?

I've been incredibly fortunate to have teachers who have offered constant support – and who have patiently answered what must have been thousands of my questions over the years. Mr Smith, in particular, deserves special mention for carefully reading and providing feedback on countless essays over nearly four years. Beyond that, every teacher inspired me to do my best through engaging lessons, thoughtful feedback, and genuine passion for their subjects. Their encouragement made learning more than just completing content – it made it exciting, rewarding and fun.



Luke Watts
ATAR 95.1, Deputy Head Prefect, Grammar

What was your favourite subject and why?

My favourite subject was Economics because I found the entire course fascinating. Each module offered opportunities to connect significant real-world events, such as COVID-19, to their complex economic impacts. I also really enjoyed learning about how different policies influence multiple aspects of the Australian economy and seeing how these elements interconnect in unique ways. The class environment really supported this subject with everyone contributing to passionate economic conversations daily. Economics would not have been the same without my teacher, Mrs Leman, who engaged the entire class with her informed and enthusiastic teaching style. Her teaching helped spark my own passion for the subject and I now hope to study a degree involving Economics at university.



University of Technology, Sydney - Cooperative Scholarships



Sophie Banham
ATAR 94.55
Offered Bachelor of Information Technology Co-operative Scholarship



Charlotte Smith
ATAR 99.5
Offered Bachelor of Accounting Co-operative Scholarship



Luke Watts
ATAR 95.1
Offered Bachelor of Accounting Co-operative Scholarship

University of Sydney - Dalyell Scholarships



Jack Murphy
ATAR 98.2
Offered Dalyell Scholarship for Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Advanced Studies



Phileine Krabbe
ATAR 98.25
Offered Dalyell Scholarship for Bachelor or Applied Science (Exercise Physiology)

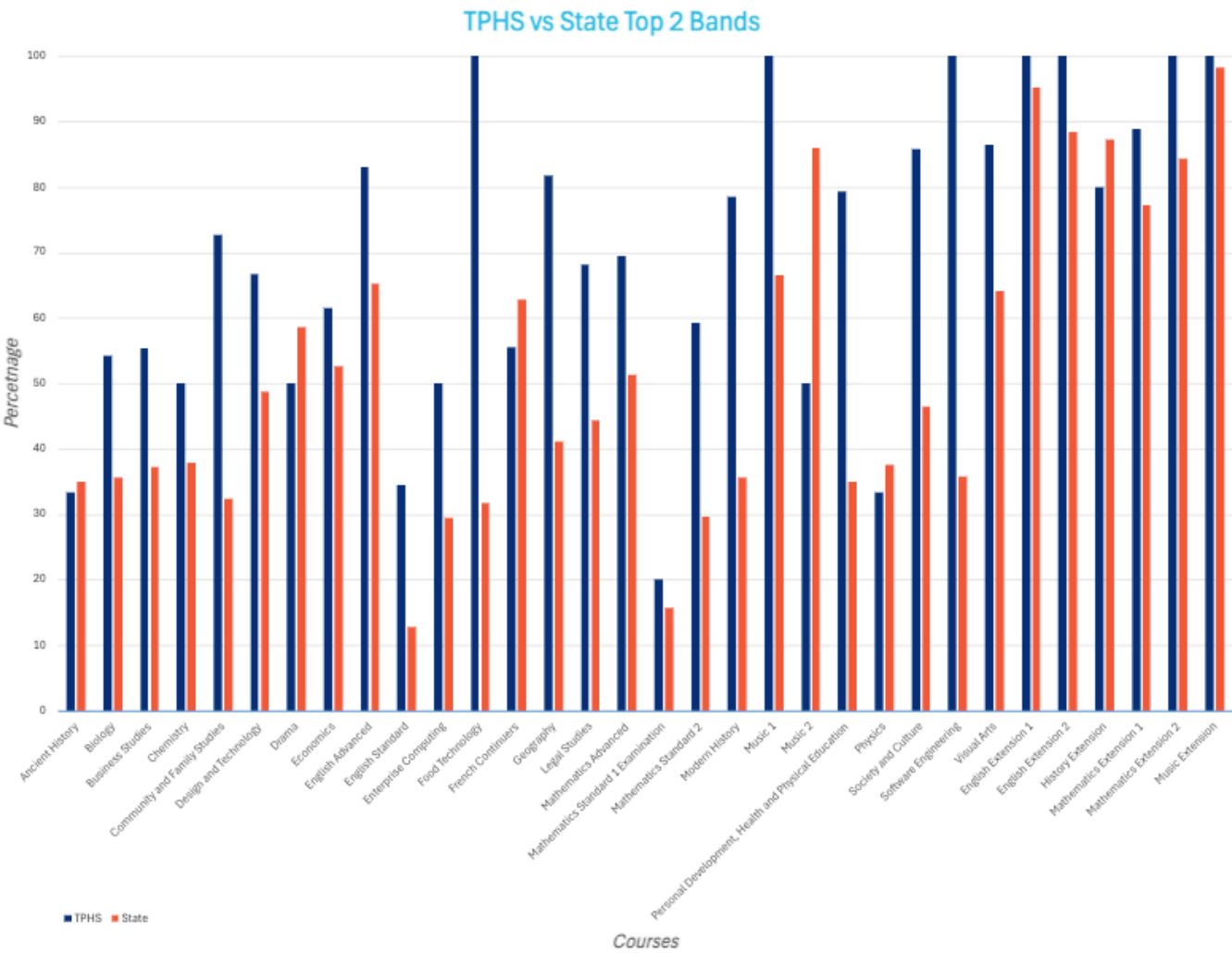


Lukas Overhoff
ATAR 98.6
Offered Dalyell Scholarship for Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Commerce

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Across all 2-unit and Extension subjects, Pittwater House achieved Band 6/E4 results in 66% of subjects, while 81% of courses exceeded the state average for students achieving the top two HSC bands. In Extension subjects, 93% of students achieved results in the top two Bands, with an outstanding eight out of nine students achieving Band 6 in Accelerated Mathematics.

Mr James Walmsley - Acting Principal (Term 4, 2025)





Pittwater House

Experience true balance in education first hand.
For a tour of our campus in action, please book
online via our website.

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